

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM

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MICHELE REAGAN  
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE H  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2844  
CAPITOL PHONE: (602) 926-5828  
CAPITOL FAX: (602) 417-3008  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-352-8404  
mreagan@azleg.gov

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DISTRICT 8

Arizona House of Representatives  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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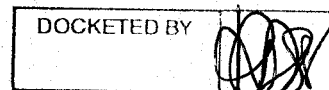
Arizona Corporation Commission

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AUG 14 2009

Commissioner Kristin K. Mayes  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

Dear Commissioner Mayes:



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Scottsdale Unified School District and the City of Scottsdale have a long track record of commitment to sustainability. The most recent examples are the solar projects planned for the Desert Mountain and Desert Vista High Schools.

I am writing because I am concerned that funding for renewable energy incentives from APS may not be available for the Desert Mountain High School solar project because so many large projects are being planned that compete for the same funds. While I'm pleased that these large solar projects for businesses are being developed, I am concerned that school projects, such as the ones Scottsdale Unified School District is planning, will not be funded. I support the alternative approach to funding school projects that APS has proposed. Counting these projects as residential and using funds that are not likely to be spent by residential customers makes enormous sense. Schools are primarily funded by the residential segment of a community. By allowing schools to access the significant residential renewable funds available, entire groups of residents benefit from their contribution each month on their electric bill, many more than when a few individual homes install solar panels. It makes no sense to place schools in a situation where their solar projects may not be funded, while millions of dollars targeted for residential projects remain unspent.

The Commission has a solid track record of being leaders in supporting the development of renewable energy. Now is the time for the Commission to continue to provide that kind of leadership by supporting the funding of school solar projects from APS residential funds and allowing those project to count towards the residential goals. School solar projects bring enormous benefits to the residential communities they serve including reducing the energy costs residential taxpayers contribute to schools operating budget, creating an educational value to students and setting an example for entire families. More than any other place, schools represent the heart and soul of the community, its people. What better place to lead by example.

Sincerely,

*Michele Reagan*

Michele Reagan  
State Representative  
District 8

